

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-11 ISO-00 DEAE-00 SS-15 AID-05 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

TRSE-00 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 HEW-02 DODE-00 L-03 /061 R

DRAFTED BY S/NM:DHERNST/JDMCLAUGHLIN:OSG

APPROVED BY S/NM:DHERNST

ARA/LA/NC:MKRANZ (SUBS)

ARA/LA:GBROWN (SUBS)

AID/SER/INC:MWAMPLER (SUBS)

DEA:MANTONELLI (SUBS)

S/S: MR. MOFFAT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 040131

BOGOTA FOR AMBASSADOR, GENEVA FOR VANCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, CO

SUBJECT: GOC NARCOTICS REORGANIZATION AND ASSOCIATED
ASSISTANCE REQUEST

REF: (A) BOGOTA 0981, (B) BOGOTA 1176, (C) BOGOTA 1414,
(D) BOGOTA 1671, (E) BOGOTA A-105, AUGUST 25, 1975

1. YOUR REPORTS OF GOC PLANS TO REORGANIZE ITS NATIONAL
NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORT HAVE BEEN WELCOMED HERE AS
INDICATION OF SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED GOC COMMITMENT TO
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM. WHILE WE CONFIDENT
EMBASSY HAS NOT IMPLIED ANY COMMITMENT ON SPECIFIC
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ASPECTS OF GOC REQUEST FOR INCREASED ASSISTANCE, PROPOSALS

OUTLINED IN BOGOTA 1671 UNDERSCORE NEED FOR CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO ENTIRE ASSISTANCE QUESTION. IN SUM, WE ARE PREPARED TO PROVIDE INCREASED NARCOTICS-RELATED ASSISTANCE TO GOC PROVIDED: (A) GOC DEVELOPS A REALISTIC CONTROL PROGRAM WHICH PROPOSES TO ATTACK SPECIFIC PROBLEMS IN SPECIFIC WAYS; (B) SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION REQUIRES COMMODITY ASSISTANCE USING NARCOTICS FUNDS; AND (C) FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE BY CONGRESS. END SUMMARY.

2. WE DO REGARD COLOMBIA AS A HIGH COCAINE PRIORITY COUNTRY AND CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE TO AUGMENT OUR

ASSISTANCE CONSIDERABLY BEYOND PRIOR LEVELS, IF THIS IS REQUIRED TO DIMINISH ITS MIDDLEMAN ROLE IN THE SUBSTANTIAL COCAINE TRAFFIC FROM LATIN AMERICA TO THE UNITED STATES, AS NOTED IN YOUR NCAP (REF. E). WE ALSO WELCOME YOUR ASSESSMENT THAT A REORGANIZATION OF THE COLOMBIAN EFFORT AS OUTLINED IN REFS A AND C IS APPROPRIATE TO THE SITUATION AND THAT IT AUGURS MORE EFFECTIVE EFFORTS. WE NOTE YOUR ESTIMATE OF THE ABILITY OF THE MILITARY TO PERFORM IN THIS AREA. WE UNDERSTAND THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY FOR COMMAND AND COORDINATING PURPOSES AS WELL AS MAINTAINING AND OPERATING OF AIRCRAFT, BUT ASSUME THE PEOPLE DOING MOST OF THE ACTUAL GATHERING OF INTELLIGENCE, INTERDICTING AND ENFORCING WOULD ESSENTIALLY BE NATIONAL POLICE, DAS AND CUSTOMS TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED IN THOSE FUNCTIONS.

3. WITH RESPECT TO FURTHER U.S. ASSISTANCE, WE REGARD THE CITATION OF AN OVERALL DOLLAR AMOUNT AND SPECIFICATION OF EQUIPMENT (REF D) TO BE PREMATURE. A REASONABLE RATIONALE FOR AND JUSTIFICATION OF AN ENLARGED PROGRAM MUST BE BASED ON A FULL ANALYSIS AND DEFINITION OF THE NATURE, SCOPE AND INCIDENCE OF THE NARCOTICS TRAFFIC PROBLEM TO BE ATTACKED, TOGETHER WITH CAREFULLY PLANNED AND DESCRIBED APPROACHES TO MEET IT AT THE MOST FEASIBLE POINTS AT WHICH SUPPRESSION EFFORTS COULD BE APPLIED. WHILE MONEY IS A FUNCTION OF PROGRAM, AND THERE IS A "CHICKEN AND EGG" ASPECT AS FAR AS THAT GOES, THE PROGRAM ITSELF MUST BE A FUNCTION OF ELABORATED NEED.

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4. THUS, WHILE REF D IS A GOOD SUMMARY OF WHAT WE MIGHT RPT MIGHT DO, WE WOULD BE HARD PRESSED AT THIS POINT TO SELL IT TO CONGRESS. MUCH STAFF WORK ON BOTH SIDES REMAINS TO BE DONE IF WE AND THE GOC ARE TO DEVELOP A REALISTIC OUTLINE OF A WORKABLE NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORT. ONCE IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT CERTAIN TYPES OF ACTIONS WILL BE REQUIRED (AND THAT, IF UNDERTAKEN, THEY HAVE REASONABLE CHANCE OF SUCCESS), WE CAN THEN JOINTLY

DETERMINE WHAT EQUIPMENT WILL BE NEEDED, HOW MUCH OF THIS NEED CAN BE MET FROM EXISTING GOC INVENTORY, AND HOW MUCH AND WHAT TYPES SHOULD BE PROVIDED UNDER NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE RUBRIC. AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, WE DO NOT WISH IN ANY WAY ENCOURAGE UNREALISTIC GOC EXPECTATIONS WHICH, IF NOT MET, WOULD LEAD TO A DIMINUTION OF THE COLOMBIAN EFFORT.

5. FYI ONLY: AT THIS TIME WE CAN PLAN RPT PLAN ON A PROGRAM IN THE RANGE OF EIGHT TO TEN MILLION DOLLARS, THE MAXIMUM THAT WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN OUR FY 76 AND FY 77 PROGRAMS COMBINED, ASSUMING CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR BOTH YEARS REACH LEVELS REQUESTED BY

EXECUTIVE BRANCH. END FYI.

6. FURTHER, SEVERAL CONSIDERATIONS MUST BEAR HEAVILY ON OUR APPROACH. FIRST, COCAINE RANKS AFTER HEROIN IN THE PRIORITIZATION OF DRUGS OF ABUSE MADE IN THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL WHITE PAPER. SECOND, WE HAVE HEAVY AND INCREASING ASSISTANCE COMMITMENTS TO OTHER COUNTRIES, CERTAIN OF WHICH MUST BE GIVEN HIGHER PRIORITY. THIRD, OUR ENTIRE FY 1976 NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE REQUEST IS FOR BUT 42.5 MILLION DOLLARS, AND THIS HAS YET TO BE ACTED UPON BY THE CONGRESS. FOURTH, WE MUST BE ABSOLUTELY ASSURED THAT EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY ASSISTANCE FUNDS WILL BE USED FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL PURPOSES AND NOT DIVERTED TO GENERAL SUPPORT OF MILITARY OR GENERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENTITIES. SHOULD THIS EVER NOT BE THE CASE, OUR PROGRAM WOULD BE PLACED IN GRAVE JEOPARDY IN THE CONGRESS.

7. WE SUGGEST IT APPROPRIATE IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES FOR A SMALL NUMBER OF WASHINGTON-BASED SPECIALISTS TO JOIN WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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KEY MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY'S NARCOTICS CONTROL COMMITTEE, AT A SUITABLE TIME SOON AFTER THE SECRETARY'S VISIT, FOR AN UP-TO-DATE ANALYSIS OF THE DETAILED NATURE OF THE INTERDICTION PROBLEM IN COLOMBIA. THIS WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY CAREFUL DEVELOPMENT OF A PROGRAM WITH THE COLOMBIANS INTO WHICH CAN BE FITTED APPROPRIATE AMOUNTS AND TYPES OF AVAILABLE U.S. GRANT EQUIPMENT. WE HAVE IN MIND FROM WASHINGTON, FOR EXAMPLE, A REPRESENTATIVE OF S/NM FOR OVERALL PROGRAMMING, ONE EACH SPECIALISTS IN AVIATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL DRUG ENFORCEMENT. IN OUR APPROACH WE WOULD GIVE PRIORITY TO DEVELOPING AND EQUIPPING UNITS HAVING DRUG CONTROL AS THEIR SPECIFIC CHARGE OVER THOSE THAT WOULD HAVE IT AS ONE AMONG OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, REORGANIZATIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE040131
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DHERNST/JDMCLAUGHLIN:OSG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760062-0891
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760233/aaaabcur.tel
Line Count: 168
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SNM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BOGOTA 981, 76 BOGOTA 1176, 76 BOGOTA 1414
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOC NARCOTICS REORGANIZATION AND ASSOCIATED ASSISTANCE REQUEST
TAGS: SNAR, EAID, CO
To: BOGOTA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006